

CIA HISTORICAL PROGRAM

7 JANUARY 1970

I

000362

7 JAN 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT: Current Status of the CIA Historical Program

1. This memorandum, with its five attachments, reviews the current state of the CIA Historical Program. It lists the histories completed since the last reports of 10 and 23 April 1969, and shows the histories in progress. It is submitted in response to your request, and is intended also for the information of the Director, should occasion arise.

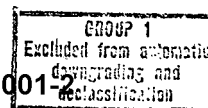
2. As was the case last April, the Historical Staff continues to devote its energies primarily to the support of historical production: in securing writers, counselling and guiding them in their research, and providing critical assistance in the review of their manuscripts, both in the overall and in the directorate programs.

3. In the overall program three histories are in course of preparation at the DCI level. Furthest along is [redacted] account of the Allan Dulles period. Since February, [redacted] has written 110 pages using one plan of organization and 215 pages on another basis. His treatment, at present, is more analytical and descriptive than historical, but the product is very good, as one would expect. [redacted] report will be found under Attachment "Overall."

4. Ludwell Montague is writing on the administration of Walter Bedell Smith, but with a different assignment from that of [redacted] Dr. Montague has been asked to supplement the histories written by [redacted] The Central Intelligence Agency: An Instrument of Government, to 1950, and by [redacted] Organizational History of Central Intelligence Agency, 1950-1953, particularly in bringing out the activities of the Clandestine Services and their place in CIA, and by offering an interpretation and evaluation of the role of General Smith as DCI. Dr. Montague has written two memorandums for the record as preliminary to his project, "Texts Relating to the Conception of National Intelligence Estimates and How They Should be Produced," and

SECRET

000362



SECRET

"Intelligence Service, 1940-1950," the latter a personal memoir. He has recently interviewed Admiral Souers in St. Louis and Mr. William Jackson in Tucson, and will start writing shortly. He writes thoughtfully and extremely well. He still has duties as a member of the Board of National Estimates, which keep him from giving full time to General Smith. His report is under Attachment "Overall."

5. Walter Elder is likewise not in a position to give full time to his assignment, "John A. McCone as DCI." He has received permission from Mr. McCone to use the McCone files; a very rich source of documentation. So far, Mr. Elder has written what he terms an ideological outline, and has nearly completed a chronological outline. While he has not yet begun to write, he has a clear idea of what he intends to do. He writes briskly and with freshness. His progress report is also to be found under Attachment "Overall."

6. The overall program also includes histories of components of the Office of the Director and of the DCI Area, and histories of the four Directorates. The last mentioned histories are of a comprehensive character and are to be distinguished from histories of components of these directorates which are part of the directorate programs.

7. Approximately a third of the histories of the overall program are without writers and two-thirds are without completion dates. These are serious gaps which it is hoped will be filled when the two memorandums of the Executive Director-Comptroller of 8 December 1969 are given effect. These stipulate that writers for all histories in the CIA Historical Program are to be chosen and suspense dates set by 7 January 1970, and that the catch-up part of the program is to be completed by 31 December 1971.

8. Thus far almost no writing has been done in the overall program, apart from that by the three writers at the DCI level. [] is writing on the origins of USIB. [] has prepared a topical outline of the Cable Secretariat, [] has done intensive research on the Office of Policy Coordination, and [] on the Office of Inspector General. There should be a considerable improvement by the time of the next status report. Attachment "Overall" shows titles, authors, and suspense dates for the overall program where these have been determined.

25X1
25X1

25X1

25
25

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

9. The status of the program in each directorate is given in the remaining attachments under the headings "DDP," "DDI," "DDS," and "DDS&T." For the DDP and DDS, the reports have been prepared by their Historical Officers; for the DDI and the DDS&T by the Chairmen of their Historical Boards. These reports list the histories which have been completed since April, show those which are in course of preparation, and those which have been admitted to a program, but lack writers. Historical Officers and Chairmen of Historical Boards have been asked to review the programs of their directorates to determine the existence of gaps and omissions in coverage and the presence of titles that might be dropped. The results of this review will appear in the next progress report.

10. In the directorate programs as in the overall program there are a number of histories that lack authors and completion dates. Although in most instances, it is expected writers will have been assigned and suspense dates set by 7 January 1970, this is only a beginning. While some histories can be written in six months, most will require from nine to fifteen months, and a few will need even more. Some staff members will be adding the writing of a history to other duties, and their progress will be slow. Where writers have been assigned full-time or for a substantial part of their time it is important that they not be pulled off their assignments for other jobs. Workloads should be arranged and adhered to so as to allow the opportunity for research and writing.

11. Experience to date with both overall and directorate programs has shown how important it is for writers to have guidance and direction in their work from beginning to the end. They need advice and assistance in their research, in making chronologies, and in writing their first and subsequent drafts. The earlier they receive this help and the more continuously it is given the less need there will be for reworking and rewriting, and the better the history will be.

12. The providing of this guidance and direction to historical writers has become the principal activity of the senior members of the Historical Staff, in the directorate programs as well as in the overall program, and without distinguishing between them. Histories in the CIA Historical Program must meet not only the needs of the various components of the directorates, but must also contribute directly to the

~~SECRET~~

writing of overall history, as it is not possible for the author of an overall history to do all the basic and essential research required for his history within the time limits assigned. Chief and Deputy Chief of the Historical Staff have been meeting with heads of offices, groups of writers, and individual authors to explain the Historical Program and give advice on the writing of it. They have, along with the Historical Officers, examined and discussed outlines and read drafts and nearly finished histories. The Documents Officer, drawing on the resources of his growing Master Index, has directed the attention of writers to records that they should consult. The Senior Editor has recently completed the preliminary draft of a Style Manual, which is now being put in final form, and guides to documentary collections and an index to Agency regulatory issuances are also in preparation; all to facilitate the work of historical writers.

13. This report has centered on the writing that has been done recently in the CIA Historical Program, on the writing that is in progress, and on the histories that are planned but which at present lack writers. The report has, purposely, not dealt in detail with the guidance and direction, nor with other, but related supporting activities of the Historical Staff. Completion of the catching-up part of the Historical Program is the overriding objective of the Historical Staff. To achieve this objective it is essential that writers be found for all the histories, that completion dates be firmly set, that writers be granted the time necessary to do their assignments, that they have all the counsel and assistance that the Historical Staff can give them, and that the Historical Program should have, in addition to its present administrative support, equally strong support throughout all levels of the Agency.

Howard M. Ehrmann
Chief, CIA Historical Staff

25X

TAB

THE OVERALL PROGRAM
Histories Planned or in Process

DCI Level

The W. B. Smith Project	Ludwell L. Montague	August 1970	
CIA History during the Dulles Period	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 200px; height: 20px;"></div>	February 1971	25
John A. McCone as DCI	Walter Elder	First draft by 30 June 1970	

Office of the Director

Office of Planning, Pro- gramming and Budgeting	No writer	No completion date	
Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence Programs Evaluation	No writer	No completion date	
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs	No writer	No completion date	
Cable Secretariat	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 200px; height: 20px;"></div>	31 March 1970	25
The President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board	No writer	No completion date	
U.S. Intelligence Board USIB Committees	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 200px; height: 20px;"></div> No writers	No completion dates	25X

The DCI Area

Office of the General Counsel	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 200px; height: 20px;"></div> Responsible for Program <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 200px; height: 20px;"></div> Writer	No completion date	25
Office of the Legislative Counsel 1946-1956 1957-1967	Walter Pforzheimer John S. Warner	No completion dates	25

Office of the Inspector
General
Audit Staff



No completion
date

No completion
date

Office of National Estimates

No writer

No completion
date

The Directorates

The Directorate for Plans

No writer

Office of Policy
Coordination
Office of Special Opera-
tions

No completion
date

February 1971

October 1970

The Directorate for
Intelligence

30 June 1970

The Directorate for Support

No completion
date

The Directorate for Science
and Technology

No completion
date